

Washington State Patrol Media Release

Chief Ronal W. Serpas



Captain Glenn Cramer
Government and Media Relations
(360) 753-5299 – office
(360) 753-5469 – fax
<http://www.wsp.wa.gov>

November 7, 2003

For Immediate Release

**Contact: Detective Sergeant Chris Gundermann
(360) 753-6800**

18% Increase in Investigations for the Missing and Exploited Children Task Force

Since the 1999 legislative mandate, the Missing and Exploited Children Task Force (MECTF) has increased its investigative efforts towards protecting our nation's most valuable resource. Crimes against children have become more complex and insidious as predators prowl the internet for victims. Currently, MECTF investigations are equally split between locating missing children and targeting sexual offenders who use the internet to victimize children or distribute child pornography. Compared to last year's case load, MECTF investigations have increased by 18%.

MECTF is a multi-agency task force comprised of state and local detectives. The investigators include one WSP sergeant, two WSP detectives, a detective from the Lacey Police Department, and most recently, a detective from the Port Orchard Police Department.

###